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Message Text

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73
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07

AID-05 IGA-01 MC-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ARAE-00 /071 W
---------- 128656
P 111940Z MAR 75
FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5925

C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 1720

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS BL
SUBJECT: FY 1975 FMS CREDIT FOR BOLIVIA

REF: STATE 53439

1. WE ARE DISAPPOINTED THAT FY 75 FMS CREDIT LEVEL FOR BOLIVIA CANNOT BE INCREASED OVER $4 MILLION PLANNING FIGURE. AS STATED IN LA PAZ 1592, WE THINK IT IN US NATIONAL INTEREST TO ADD $R - $6 MILLION TO BOLIVIA THIS YEAR TO USE FOR MILITARY AND CIVIC ACTION ACTIVITIES.

2. BOLIVIAN DIPLOMATIC AND MILITARY REPRESENTATIVES IN WASHINGTON ARE INFORMING GOB THAT CHANCES ARE QUITE GOOD THAT BOLIVIA WILL RECEIVE MORE THAN $4 MILLION AND HAVE INFORMED GOB THAT $4 MILLION IS ALREADY AVAILABLE FOR USE. STIMULATED BY SUCH REPORTING, MINISTER OF DEFENSE BERNAL HAS BEEN SWARMING OVER ME IN EFFORT TO USE ADDITIONAL INCREASES OVER THE $4 MILLION FOR EQUIPMENT FOR THE MILITARY HOSPITAL IN LA PAZ. ALSO BOLIVIAN AIR FORCE CONTINUES TO HOPE TO ACQUIRE C-130 AIRCRAFT THROUGH FMS CREDIT ROUTE. BOTH MOD AND FAB WILL BE DISAPPOINTED AT NEWS THAT WILL REACH THEM ULTIMATELY THAT LEVEL WILL NOT BE INCREASED OVER $4 MILLION.

3. IF DETERMINATION IS FIRM THAT BOLIVIA WILL NOT BE
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PROVIDED WITH MORE THAN $4 MILLION IN FY 75, THE DEPARTMENT'S

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NOTE IN REPLY TO BOLIVIAN EMBASSY'S REQUEST SHOULD INCLUDE AN EARLY WARNING THAT CHANCES OF ACQUIRING FMS CREDITS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF $12 MILLION ARE QUITE SMALL. CONTENTS AND TONE OF PROPOSED DIPLOMATIC NOTE IN PARA 3 OF REFTEL WILL CONVEY IMPRESSION TO GOB THAT PROSPECTS ARE STILL GOOD THAT THEY WILL RECEIVE SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OVER $4 MILLION IN FY 75. TO FORESHADOW EVENTUAL TURNDOWN, IF THAT IS TO BE THE CASE, DIPLOMATIC NOTE SHOULD CONTAIN EARLY WARNING OF EVENTUAL NEGATIVE DECISION.

4. WE WOULD APPRECIATE FURTHER EFFORT AT UPPING PROGRAMMED AMOUNT FROM $4 MILLION TO HIGHER LEVEL AND WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE BEING ADVISED OF POSSIBLE CHANGES IN LANGUAGE OF DIPLOMATIC NOTE IF IT IS CONCLUDED THAT THERE WILL BE NO SUCH INCREASE.
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Draft Date: 11 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
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